

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 070950Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 449

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE RESUMES DELIBERATIONS MARCH 4

REF: TOKYO 2758

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE RESUMED DELIBERATIONS
EVENING MARCH 4, OPENING WAY FOR POSSIBLE ENACTMENT OF GOJ
BUDGET ABOUT APRIL 10. END SUMMARY.

1. LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE RESUMED DELIBERATIONS
EVENING MARCH 4, THUS ENDING FIVE-DAY OPPOSITION BOYCOTT WHICH
FOLLOWED LDP REJECTION OF DEMAND THAT CERTAIN BUSINESSMAN BE
SUBPOENAED BY COMMITTEE TO CLARIFY ALLEGEDLY MIDDLEADING RESPONSES
DURING CONCENTRATED PRICE DELIBERATIONS LAST WEEK.

2. DEADLOCK BROKEN BY GOJ ACCESSION TO OPPOSITION DEMAND
THAT PRIMIN TANAKA PERSONALLY APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE TO GIVE
OFFICIAL GOJ POSITION ON CONTROVERSIAL WITNESS RECALL ISSUE.
PRIMIN TOLD COMMITTEE THAT WHILE QUESTION OF RECALL OF
BUSINESSMAN AS WITNESSES IS MATTER FOR LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
TO DECIDE, HE THOUGHT THAT RESORT TO SUBPOENAS SHOULD BE
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PRUDENTLY CONSIDERED AND ASSERTED VIEW THAT DIET IS NOT

PLACE TO PUT CITIZENS ON TRIAL.

3. RESUMPTION OF DELIBERATIONS HAS IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR LOWER HOUSE APPROVAL OF DRAFT BUDGET ON OR ABOUT PRESENT GOOD TARGET DATE, MARCH 12. IF ALL GOES WELL, FINAL DIET APPROVAL OF BUDGET CAN THEN BE EXPECTED BY ABOUT APRIL 12 FOLLOWING ROUTINE CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET BILL IN UPPER HOUSE.

4. BUDGET DELAY HAS SLOWED CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PENDING BILLS AND RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT CURRENT DIET SESSION MAY BE EXTENDED BEYOND APRIL 29 ADJOURNMENT DATE. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT HE HINTED AT EXTENSION EARLIER IN WEEK, BUT SOME OPPOSITION MEMBERS (KOMEITO CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI) INFORMED EMBOFFS YESTERDAY THAT ONE-MONTH EXTENSION WOULD NOT SURPRISE THEM. SUCH AN EXTENSION WOULD CONTINUE SESSION ALMOST TO EVE OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

5. COMMENT: OPPOSITION WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW BUDGET DELIBERATIONS TO RESUME PROBABLY STEMS FROM DESIRE TO AVOID BEING CRITICIZED FOR UNREASONABLY DELAYING VITAL BUDGET DISCUSSIONS. MOREOVER, OPPOSITION APPARENTLY FEELS IT HAS ALREADY REAPED MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM HEARINGS WHICH WERE USED TO DRUM IMAGE OF BUSINESS PROFITEERING INTO PUBLIC MIND TO EMBARRASSMENT AND POLITICAL DISADVANTAGE OF LDP/GOJ. SHOWSMITH

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